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"UUM : UNIVERSITI PENGURUSAN TERKEMUKA
(THE EMINENT MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY)

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UUM STUDENTS CHOSEN AS PERDANA FELLOW TO THE PRIME MINISTER



UUM ONLINE: The wheel of fortune is forever in motion.

Such was the luck of a Bachelor of Laws student from the School of Law (SoL), Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), Ng Choon Kiat when he was selected as the Fellow to the Prime Minister of Malaysia, and is placed at the Prime Minister's Office.

When contacted, Choon Kiat explained that Perdana Fellowship is a government program organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports since 2013, targeting at youth to get them involved in the national agenda under the supervision of the cabinet, such as the Ministers and the Prime Minister.

"This program gives students the opportunity to immerse themselves in the life of a prime minister from the aspect of responsibility and understand the intricacies of the national governance," he said

On his shoulders, the trust and tasks of conducting research on state policies, preparing the texts of ministerial speeches, and conducting research for the parliamentary conferences.

"So I hope that in the five months I am here, I can learn more knowledge, including getting to know government governance, learning the governance process, as well as making more friends and making use of the experience that is available to the government in the national agenda and policy," he said.

Choon Kiat is among four UUM students selected as the Prime Fellow and Corporate Fellow 2022 effective from from July 13 to December 31, 2022.

The others are Bachelor of Law student, Aiman Nadim Joehaimi, a Bachelor of Communication student, Nur Haziqah Kamaruzzaman, and Bachelor of International Affairs student, Muhammad Iqhwan Madzli.

Meanwhile, for Muhammad Iqhwan from the School of International Studies (SoIS), the Perdana Fellow, gave early exposure to undergraduate students to follow and get to know the government administration system, especially in policy making at the national level, more comprehensively.

"We are placed with the mentors of each minister who then gives the best exposure for us to find out the real facts of what a minister does such as how to solve problems, formulate policies, and governance.

"My duties at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provide a practical rather than theoretical understanding because, as a student of International Affairs, I can see how the approach of diplomacy between Malaysia and foreign countries is done based on their respective cultural values and norms.

"Apart from that, we can perform important tasks such as making important reports and documentation based on the current issues discussed," said Ikhwan, who is the Perdana Fellow to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Datuk Seri Saifuddin Abdullah.

When he gets the news that he was selected, he was grateful and excited and looking forward to gaining this valuable experience.

"I was surprised and did not expect this because of 1,500 applicants who study or work in and outside the country who undoubtedly provide an extraordinary challenge; I was selected among 82 perdana fellows, and I will work hard and maintain the good name of UUM.

"Students as youth who are an example to the people in Malaysia who move the machinery and administrative power whether at the government or private level will certainly have a big impact on the transformation of the country," he added.

He is confident that through this program, he can form precise and holistic leadership qualities and thus be able to take further steps forward through policy involvement and important work under the government's responsibility.



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